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CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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ANNUAL REPORT  
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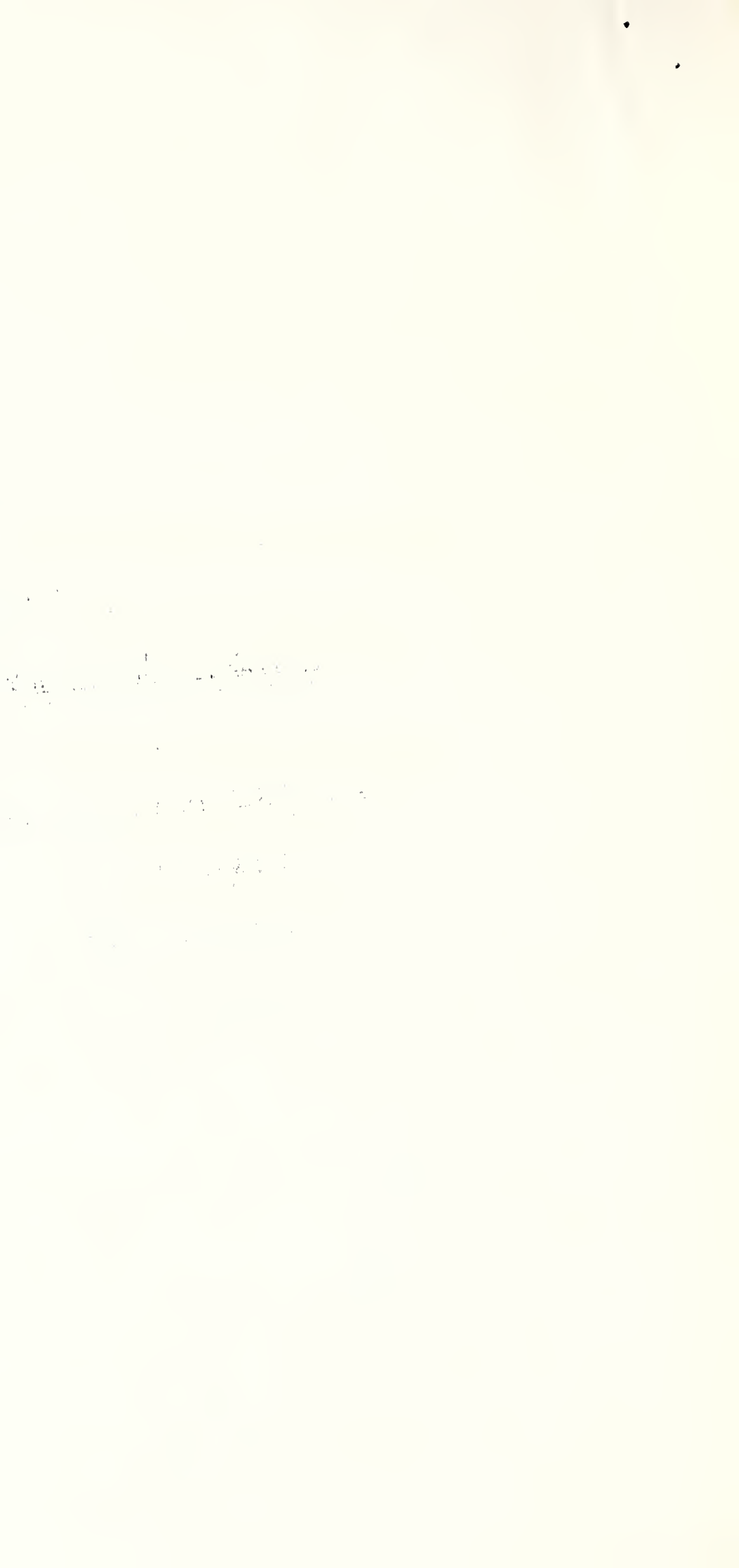
OF  
..

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
.....

for the year ended  
.....

31st December 1956  
.....





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December 1956

To the Chairman and Members of CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the vital statistics and sanitary work of your District for the year ending 31st December 1956.

VITAL STATISTICS

ESTIMATED POPULATION - mid 1956 - 5,600.

BIRTH RATE The birth rate per thousand of the population showed a slight increase, being 14.49 in 1955 and 16.25 in 1956.

There were three still births during 1956.

GENERAL DEATH RATE The death rate for 1956 was 9.82 per thousand of the population compared with 9.10 in 1955. The total number of deaths in the Urban District in 1956 was 54, in 1955 51. For comparison I have set out below death rates as previously reported.

1937	12.35	per	thousand	of	population
1938	9.94	"	"	"	"
1939	11.10	"	"	"	"
1945	13.99	"	"	"	"
1946	13.17	"	"	"	"
1947	14.41	"	"	"	"
1948	11.89	"	"	"	"
1950	9.45	"	"	"	"
1951	8.18	"	"	"	"
1952	6.87	"	"	"	"
1953	11.165	"	"	"	"
1954	10.375	"	"	"	"
1955	9.10	"	"	"	"

NATURAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION The number of births in excess of deaths in 1956 was 34, in 1955 it was 30.

INFANT MORTALITY The death rate of infants under one year of age per thousand live births was 22.72 compared with 12.47 in 1955. The total number of deaths was 2 in 1956, 1 in 1955 and 2 in 1954.

HEALTH SERVICES AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN THE AREA

Staff: One part-time Medical Officer  
One part-time Public Health Inspector

A District Midwife is appointed and a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held weekly. An ante-natal clinic is organised by local medical practitioners. The arrangements generally for care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children are adequate. The health visiting service is working satisfactorily.

ILLNESS - CARE AND AFTER CARE Vaccination and diphtheria immunisation services are available. The ambulance service is very good and the domestic help service satisfactory. Pathological investigations are carried out at the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Hospital treatment



is available at Doddington Hospital, Addenbrooke's Hospital and Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY Wisbech & District Water Board are the Statutory Authority and a piped main supply from Marham, Norfolk, is provided to 1446 houses directly, whilst 306 houses are only supplied by standpipes. The remaining houses in the outlying rural area have no piped supply. The houses which are only supplied by standpipes are mainly in poor structural condition and provide some guide as to the possible size of any slum clearance scheme which may be envisaged.

It is essential not only to continue to attract workers to the outlying fen area but also to provide a satisfactory standard of health and amenity that piped mains supply should be afforded to the outlying districts of the area as soon as possible.

PUBLIC CLEANSING House refuse is cleared by contract weekly. There is room for improvement in the method of collection and the equipment available. A critical labour shortage hampers the improvement of these services but steps to improve the service should be taken as opportunity is afforded.

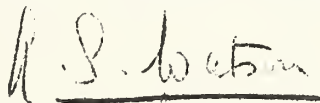
The labour shortage hampers work at the Refuse Dump but the situation here is generally becoming more satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS There are no natural rivers or streams within the Urban Area. The town is situated on a layer of Kimmeridge clay thrown up and forming high land above the fen. The rainfall in the area has always gravitated on the east and west sides into the low-lying fens. This outfall is intercepted by the artificial cuts and "rivers" made some three hundred years ago when the fens were reclaimed.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION This is entirely on the water carriage system in the Urban Area.

SCHOOLS The schools are all supplied with piped water and the general sanitary conditions are satisfactory.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,  
Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health.



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## Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated population, mid 1956.....5,600

Comparability factors Births - 1.00 Deaths - 0.98

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live births (legitimate) . . . . .	45	39	84
" " (illegitimate) . . . . .	2	2	4
Still births (legitimate) . . . . .	1	2	3
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age (legitimate) . . . . .	-	2	2
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age (legitimate) . . . . .	-	1	1
Birth rate per 1,000 population . . . . .	16.25		
Death " " " " . . . . .	9.82		
Death rate of all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. . . . .	22.72		

### Deaths

-----The chief causes of deaths were:-	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm of lung. . . . .	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasm. . . . .	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system. . . . .	5	7	12
Coronary disease. . . . .	5	1	6
Hypertension with heart disease. . . . .	1	-	1
Other heart diseases. . . . .	8	4	12
Other circulatory diseases. . . . .	-	1	1
Pneumonia . . . . .	1	1	2
Bronchitis. . . . .	1	2	3
Other diseases of the respiratory system. . . . .	1	-	1
Nephritis, Nephrosis. . . . .	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate . . . . .	3	-	3
Congenital malformation . . . . .	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases. . . . .	2	3	5
Suicide . . . . .	1	-	1
	31	23	54

<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infected Hepatitis . . . . .	2	2	4
Whooping Cough. . . . .	11	16	27
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	5	5	10
Measles . . . . .	1	3	4
Pneumonia . . . . .	1	1	2
Chicken Pox . . . . .	74	55	129
	94	82	176





## SUMMARY OF FOOD INSPECTIONS 1956

### 1. Number of Food Premises.

Cafes	1	Fishmongers	4
Hotels	2	Grocers	18
Milk Producers	4	Butchers	9
Milk Retailers	3	Greengrocers	7
Bakers	6		

### 2. Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and Number of Dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.

Ice-cream Retailers	17
Ice-cream Producers	2
Sausage Producers, etc.	9
No. of Dairies	3

### 3. Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises 1890 Number of Inspections of Food Premises incl. above 2940

### 4. Condemned food is disposed of by burning in the Refuse incinerator except for large articles and tinned foods which are normally buried with four feet of cover and surrounded with a nine inch layer of quicklime.

### 5. The total quantity of food condemned during the year is as under:-

Pork	340 lbs.
Beef	180 lbs.
Mutton	40 lbs.
Fish	-

### Tinned Foods.

Meat	25½ lbs.
Milk	42 lbs.
Fruit & miscellaneous	54½ lbs.



MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	272	-	-	613	1126	-
Number inspected	272	-	-	613	1126	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	42	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	5.1	-	-	6.76	0.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	10	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.1	-	-	-	1.0	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-



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HEALTH  
30 SEP 57

CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector  
for the year 1956.

D. Charlesworth, M.C.,  
A.M.I.C.E., M.Inst.Mun.E.

Grove House,  
Chatteris,  
Cambs.

August, 1957.

Mrs. Barrett and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report  
upon the activities of my Department for the year ended  
31st December, 1956.

Yours faithfully,

Engineer, Surveyor  
and Public Health Inspector.





## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### a) Public Health Acts.

Generally informal approach to the responsible persons to ensure remedial actions necessary have produced results.

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice ..... 1194

Procedures under the Public Health Acts.

No. of nuisances in respect of which notices were served and defects remedied ..... 1

### b) Food.

Since the de-rationing of meat, regular weekly inspection of slaughtered carcasses totalled 100 per cent of the kill. Most of this work was done after normal office hours.

The slaughterhouses in operation total five and are well kept and in good structural order. All these premises are certification centres for the Deadweight Guarantee Scheme. Generally the butchers are to be commended on the supply of good quality meat and the quantity of meat condemned is small, totalling only 560 lbs. from all causes. A minor quantity of tinned food was accepted for disposal as unfit for human consumption.

The premises of food retailers have been inspected and found generally satisfactory. An increase in the standard of hygiene has been apparent and it is hoped that this standard will continue to rise particularly in the sale of goods wrapped and sealed to prevent contamination. There were no food poisoning outbreaks reported. Inspection of ice-cream producers and retailers are made and satisfactory conditions of sale prevail. The greater part of ice-cream and frozen fruit juices are produced outside the district and retailed wrapped or cartoned by well-known branded firms. This results in the production of an efficient and carefully controlled material.

Three food preparation rooms have been reconstructed to conform to the best principles of hygiene.

### c) Housing.

Council Houses occupied at 31:12:56.

Willey and Curf .....	54
Delve .....	18
Burnsfield .....	46
Wood Street and London Road .....	22
Wenny .....	52
Westbourne .....	133
St. Martin's Road and Close .....	27
Tithe Estate .....	110
New Road .....	23

Council Houses under construction 31:12:56.

New Road .....	26
----------------	----

Sites acquired and available for building 31:12:56.

New Road .....	84
----------------	----

Grand Total 595





23 houses and bungalows have been completed during the year. Subsoil drainage and grassing of the open spaces remain. 12 trees were planted at Station Street/Station Road corner by Council workmen.

Building progress was reasonable and a better quality of material was obtainable and standards of workmanship were higher. The easing of controls of materials has contributed to this end. Costs continue to rise and appended below is a statement of the rate of increase in wages of building craftsmen and labourers.

	<u>Craftsmen</u>	<u>Labourers</u>
1947-51	2/9 - 3/0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2/7
1952	3/3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/10
1953	3/5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/-
1954	3/6 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/1
1954	3/8	3/2 $\frac{1}{2}$
1955 7th February	3/8 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/3
1955 18th April	3/11	3/4 $\frac{1}{2}$
1956 6th February	4/-	3/5 $\frac{1}{2}$
1956 16th April	4/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/8

Housing development by private enterprise continued on a modest scale only, 6 houses being commenced in the year. The principal difficulty in the way of would-be developers is the absence of suitable building land within the town urban fence. Perhaps some major contribution to the overcoming of this difficulty may result over the years from the forthcoming slum clearance schemes.

#### Housing Repairs.

54 houses at Willey Terrace and Curf Terrace have been repainted by direct labour and 20 houses at Burnsfield Estate by P. W. Simpson & Sons at an average inclusive cost of £15/16/- per house. With present staff regular repainting is impossible and tenders for repainting some estates should be asked from local contractors. The execution of this work by contractors and direct labour side by side will produce the best result and obviate the difficulties of providing full employment for a large number of painters during the winter. Repairs to boundary fencing are extensively required. Some work has already been carried out.

Mechtrical tubing has been inserted in 24 external W.C.s.

Minor repairs continue to be executed by direct labour with a considerable saving in cost to the Council.

It will soon be possible to provide full-time employment for another handyman plumber.

#### Improvement Grants, Housing Acts, 1949 and 1954.

Four applications were approved during the year to which the Council contribution is £871 : 11 : 8 of which Mr. A. R. Tucker has not yet claimed £244, and the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Oxford £542.

#### SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year a careful and lengthy examination of property resulted in the issue of demolition and closing orders for 30 properties. Some 18 houses were inspected



in detail. The Council's plan for a five year clearance scheme resulted in 99 houses being earmarked for demolition. Progress in respect of modernisation of houses remains slow.

### Building Byelaws.

#### Plans approved

Houses .....31 (including Council houses)  
 Miscellaneous Improvements.10  
 Miscellaneous Garages, etc.26  
 Recommendation to Isle of  
 Ely County Council Planning  
 Committee .....31

### Cemeteries and Open Spaces.

The number of interments during the year was 69. The revised arrangements for removal of clay from the site have worked reasonably satisfactorily. Grass cutting occupies most of the time during the summer months. The greatest handicap with this work is the hand clipping around grave stones and borders, and if this could be reduced by introduction of speedier methods I feel that the Cemetery appearance could be improved without additional expense.

The Council now maintain the following open spaces in addition to the Cemeteries:-

Recreation Ground, Wenny Road .....	5.31 acres
Recreation Ground, Huntingdon Road .....	2.56 acres
Miscellaneous spaces, Westbourne Road .....	0.75 acres
The Green, Burnsfield .....	0.40 acres
The Green, Wenny Corner .....	0.15 acres
Tithe Estate .....	3.2 acres
	<u>12.37</u> acres

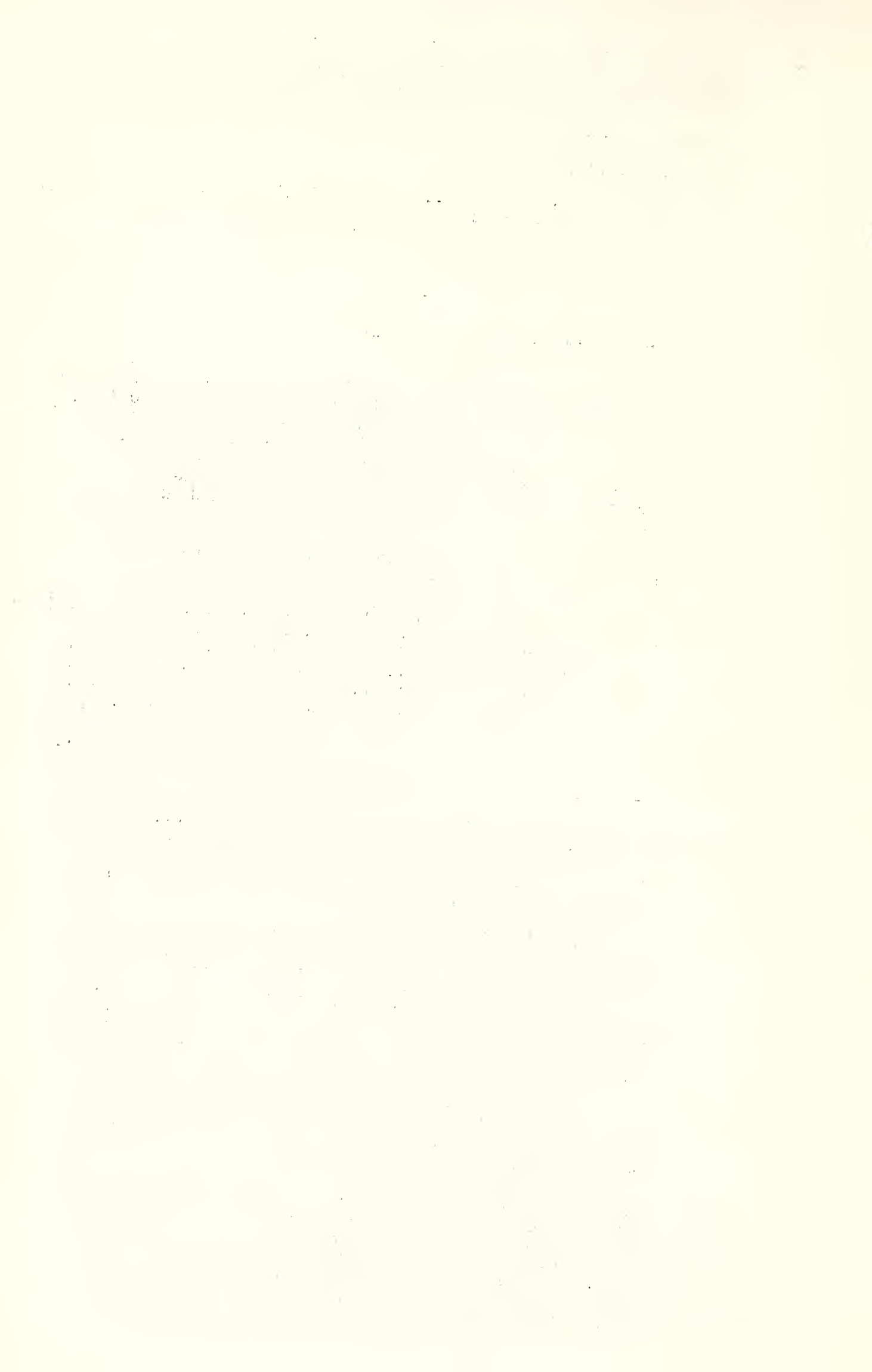
### House Refuse.

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse .....2011  
 Weekly cost per collection point ..... 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d

The recent survey of neighbouring authorities showed that this weekly cost averaged between authorities was 6d.

Organisation of collection remains difficult due to labour problems. Waste paper is still received at Grove House and sold as market conditions warrant. The baling of waste paper is carried out in periods of wet weather and forms a useful method of employment for outside workmen. Recently the market price has improved and, provided no collection rounds are made, there is no cost to the Authority.

Disposal at Campole Dump continues. The Contractors for disposal of light scrap and tins are becoming unreliable and consideration may have to be given to tin baling again unless other means of disposal are adopted. Rat infestation at the Dump is always a problem despite vigorous efforts to control outbreaks. I feel that the present method of disposal is unhygienic and that careful consideration should be given to the introduction of controlled tipping as and when sites can be surveyed. The major problems of controlled tipping are increased cost, lack of adequate conscientious labour and continual provision of inert covering soil and material.





### Highways.

.....  
Total mileage of roads maintained ..... 5.93.

Numerous minor repairs were carried out and a large number of minor improvements and repairs are still outstanding.

Street scavenging continues but shortage of labour makes this service the pariah of the various activities. The liaison between the Authority and the County Council on snow clearing and gritting of County roads works smoothly and has ensured a reasonably safe surface to most roads early in the day in frosty periods.

Street lighting of the shopping centre by 250 watt mercury vapour lamps gives adequate conditions for pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The remainder of the built-up area is now provided with at least 50% Class B lighting and provides an adequate safety factor for motorists and for police protection work.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

.....  
No major flooding took place. Bridge Street sewer still requires careful regular maintenance. The Gas Board have discontinued the making of gas at Chatteris. Further collapse of the culverted sewers at the rear of High Street and in St. Martin's Road took place. Sewer dykes of 180 chains were cleaned out. Outfalls and sewers have been regularly treated for rat infestation with good results.

The Acre Fen Sewage plant continues to produce good quality effluent. Some difficulty is experienced in low voltage periods when coils tend to burn out and in clearing sludge beds in wet weather. Disposal of dried sludge to local farmers provides a satisfactory, if unproductive, final disposal.

Closet accommodation in the town area is wholly water borne.

Work on the new sewage scheme and the new link sewers made good progress during the year. The trunk sewers were completed and substantial parts of the works were completed. It should be possible for the plant to be commissioned in July, 1957.





PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.  
REPORT FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>				
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (incl. Council Houses	All other (incl. business premises)	Total of Columns 1, 2, & 3.	Agri- cultural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Number of properties in Local Authority's district	4	1788	218	2010	300
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
a) Notification	4	7	1	12	-
b) Survey under the Act	-	-	-	-	-
c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose).	4	623	90	717	25
Total inspections carried out incl. re-inspections	-	-	-	-	-
Number of properties inspected (in Sec.11) which are found to be infested by					
a) Rats Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	3	14	1	18	-
b) Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
Number of infested properties (in Sec. 1V) treated by L.A.	3	14	1	18	-
Total treatments carried out incl. re-treatments	22	16	1	39	-



# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1958. FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF CHATTERIS IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

### PART I OF THE ACT.

1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on register</u>	<u>Number of</u>		
		<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	4	46	-	-
Factories not included in 1 (in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority).	21	98	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	25	144	-	-

2.- Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>by H.M. Inspector</u>	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	4	3	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u> Insufficient	4	2	-	2	-
Unsuitable or Defective	7	7	-	-	-
TOTAL	18	13	-	2	-



HOUSING POSITION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

	POST WAR HOUSING		
	<u>Council</u>	<u>Private Enterprise</u>	<u>Housing Association</u>
Total number let in contract.	293	103	24
Total number completed and occupied.	293	98	24
Total completed during 1956 (included in total number completed above)	23	9	Nil
Under construction	-	4	Nil





MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	272	-	-	613	1126	-
Number inspected	272	-	-	613	1126	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	42	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	5.1	-	-	6.76	0.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	10	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.1	-	-	-	1.0	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

NOTE:- Of the 1126 pigs inspected 454 were accepted for the deadweight guarantee payment of the Ministry of Food.





SUMMARY OF FOOD INSPECTIONS 1956

1. Number of Food Premises.

Cafes	1	Fishmongers	4
Hotels	2	Grocers	18
Milk Producers	4	Butchers	9
Milk Retailers	3	Greengrocers	7
Bakers	6		

2. Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and Number of Dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.

Ice-cream Retailers	17
Ice-cream Producers	2
Sausage Producers, etc.	9
No. of Dairies	3

3. Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises 1890  
Number of Inspections of Food Premises incl. above 2940

4. Condemned food is disposed of by burning in the Refuse incinerator except for large articles and tinned foods which are normally buried with four feet of cover and surrounded with a nine inch layer of quicklime.

5. The total quantity of food condemned during the year is as under:-

Pork	340 lbs.
Beef	180 lbs.
Mutton	40 lbs.
Fish	-

Tinned Foods.

Meat	25½ lbs.
Milk	42 lbs.
Fruit & miscellaneous	54½ lbs.

